ACT VII: KARAKURI * A MAN

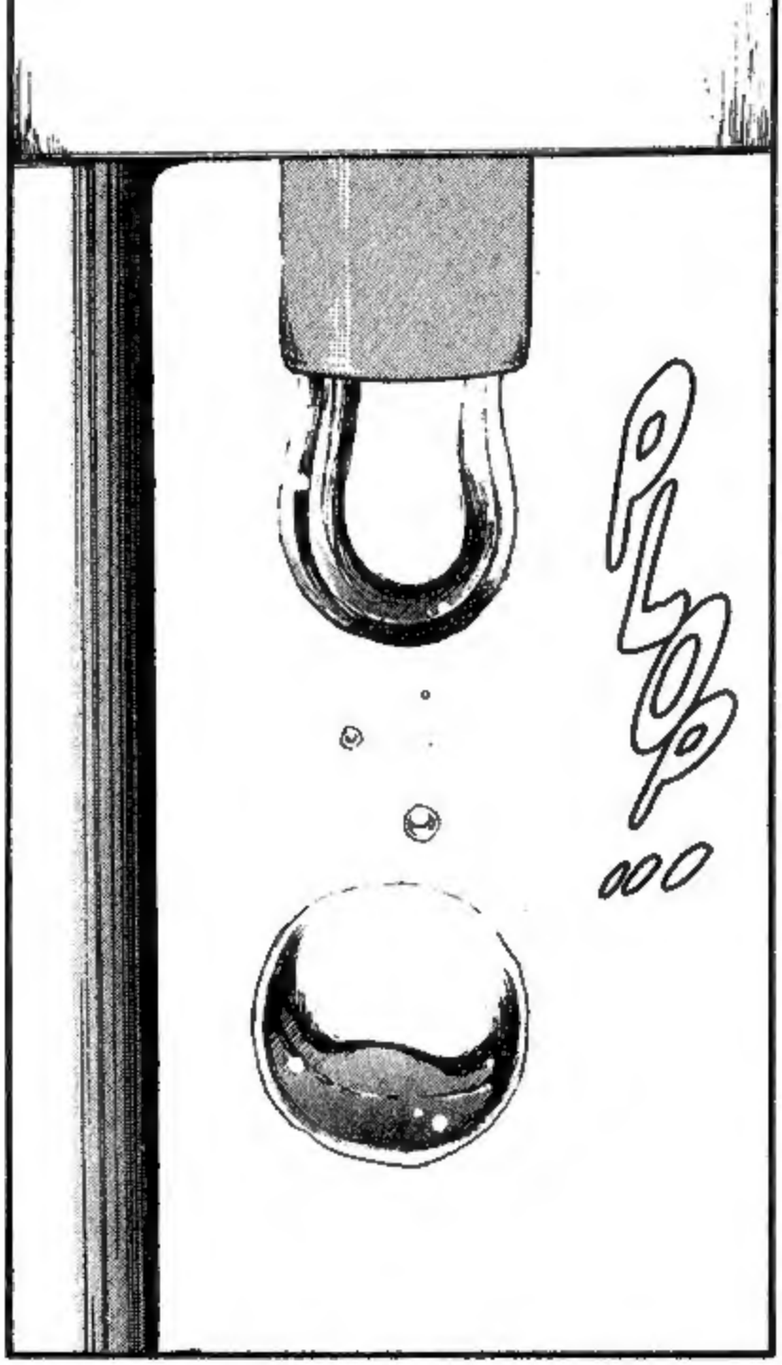
"THE GREAT TENT"

THIS VISION...

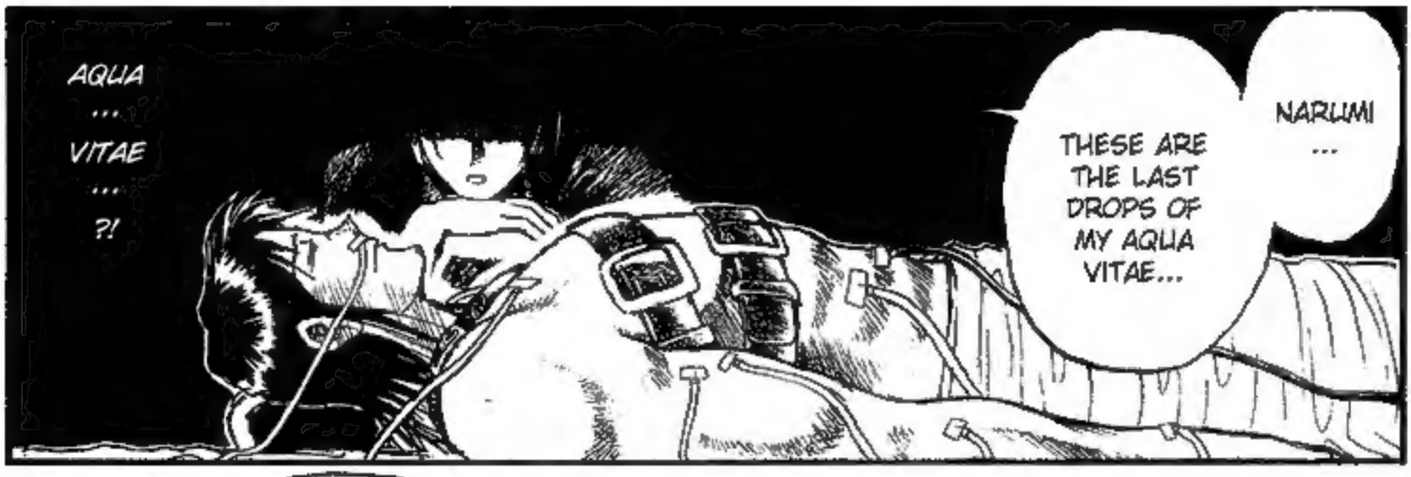
IT'S A DREAM...

THIS ARM...
I'VE SEEN IT SOME-WHERE...
AM I WRONG?

GOO
O
H
A DREAM... THAT I OFTEN HAVE...


PLOP...

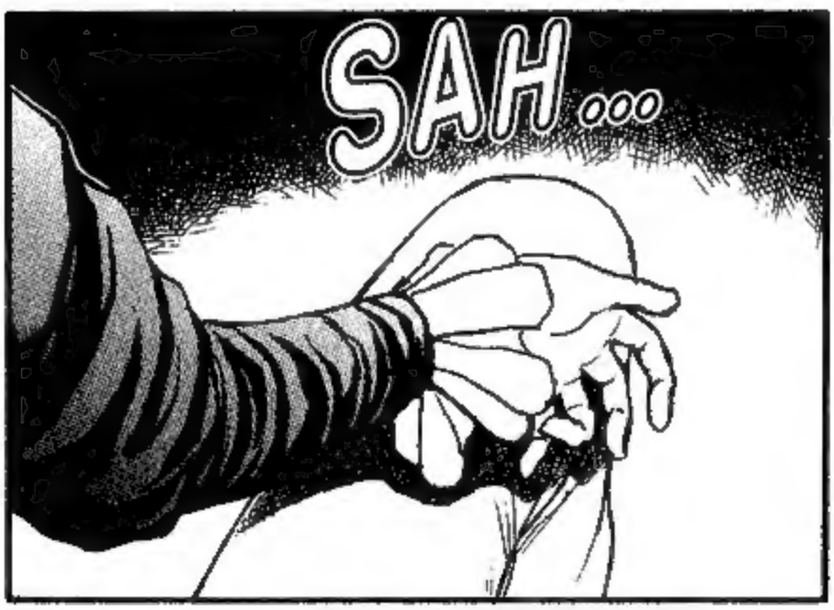
AGAIN, I'M ... LYING IN THIS BED ...


AQUA ... VITAE ... ?!
NARUMI ...
THESE ARE THE LAST DROPS OF MY AQUA VITAE...

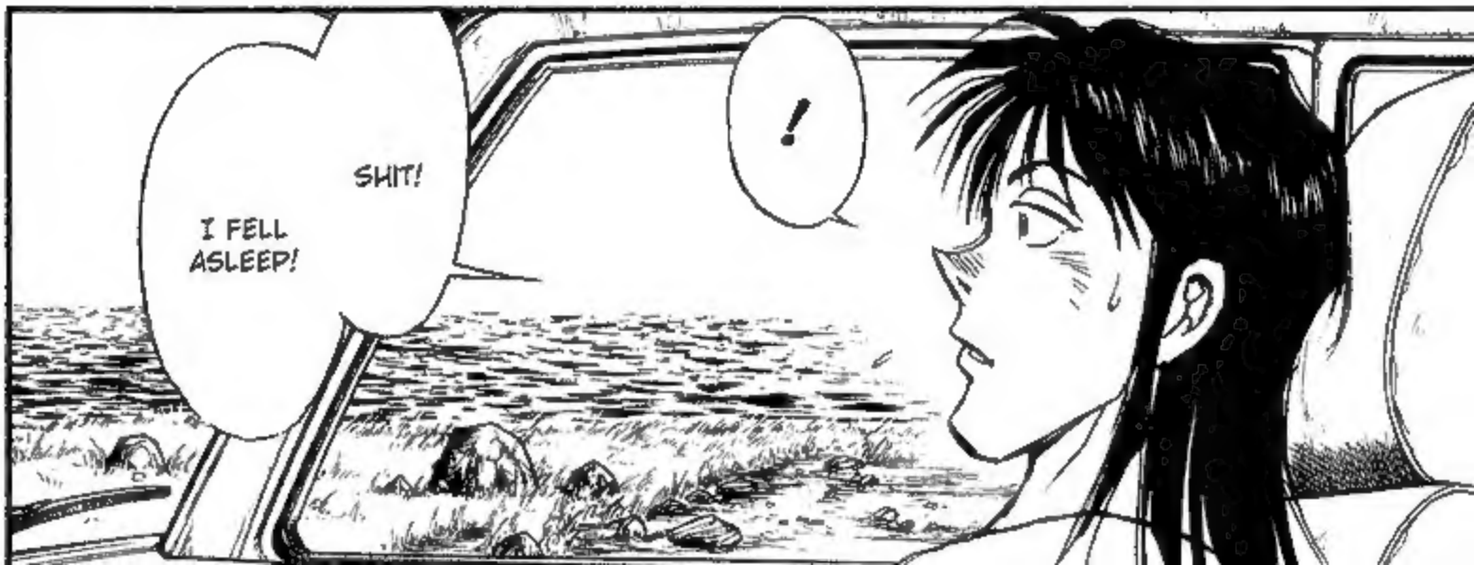
AQUA VITAE... THE "WATER OF LIFE."

LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH.
THEN, YOU WILL...
LIKE THE PHOENIX, FIRST SYMBOL OF MY RESEARCH ...
...YOU WILL RISE FROM THE DEAD, THANKS TO MY ULTIMATE ELIXIR!
... GUY?
... WHAT?
THOSE ARE ALL THE MEMORIES I HAVE LEFT FROM BEFORE MY ACCIDENT...
MOMENTS FROM BEFORE I LOST MY ARM... BEFORE FINDING MYSELF IN FRANCE...
WATER EVERY-WHERE... WALLS COLLAPSING ...
...AND A BOY WITH SUCH A BRIGHT SMILE
FLAMES ...
AND A REAL PRETTY GIRL... WHO'S CRYING...

PIU
PIU
PIU
PIU


SAH...

PIU
PIU


!
SHIT!
I FELL ASLEEP!

TAN
ARE WE THERE?
VHHHH

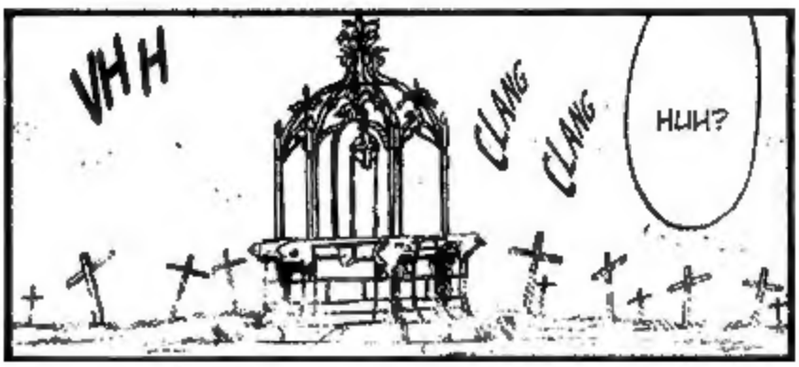
YES ...
I'M COLD!
WE STARTED FLYING WITH OLYMPIA, BUT...
IN THE END, WE TOOK THE CAR!

SPLASCHH

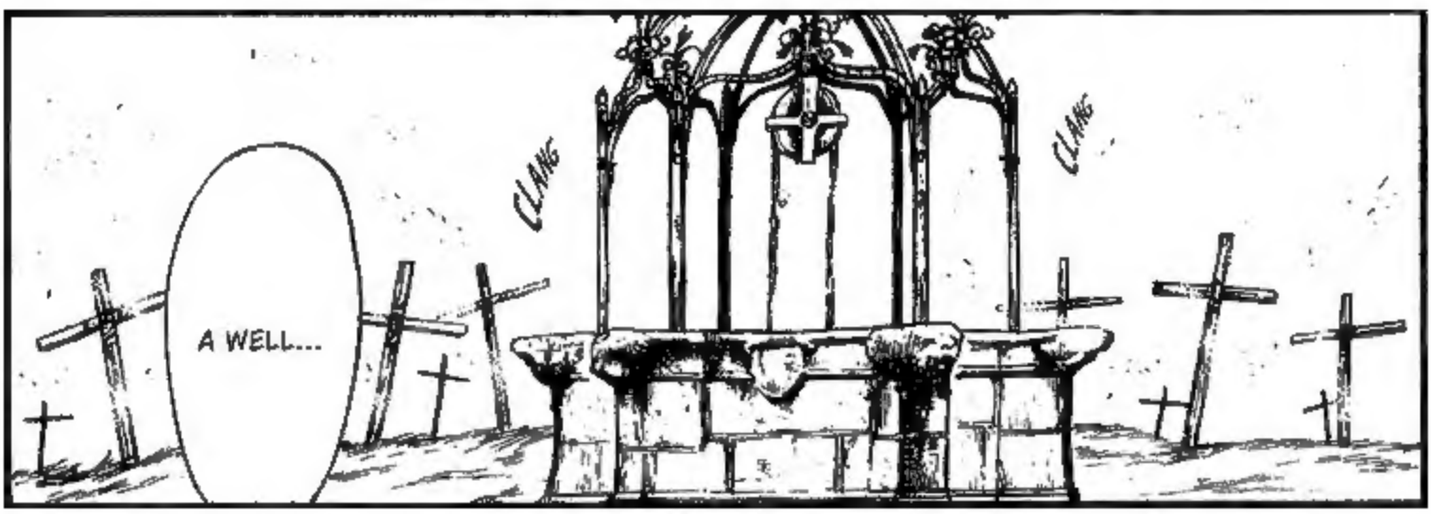
... QUIBERON?
WWHH VHHH

HE SAID WE WERE GOING TO THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE SHIRO-GANES...
IT'S HERE ...

VVVHHH
AN ABANDONED GRAVEYARD... IN A PLACE JUST AS WITHERED AND DECREPIT...


VHH
CLANG
CLANG
HUH?

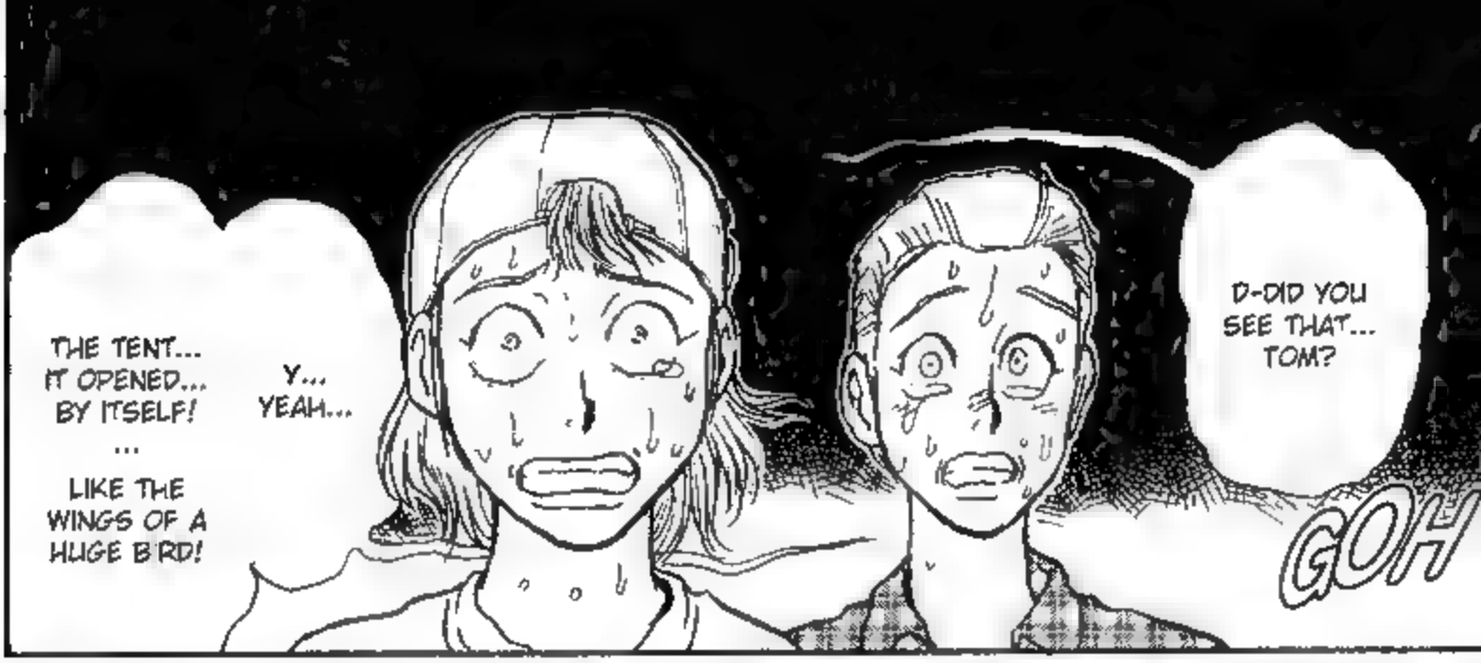
CLANG
NOT MY KINDA PLACE...


A WELL...
CLANG
CLANG

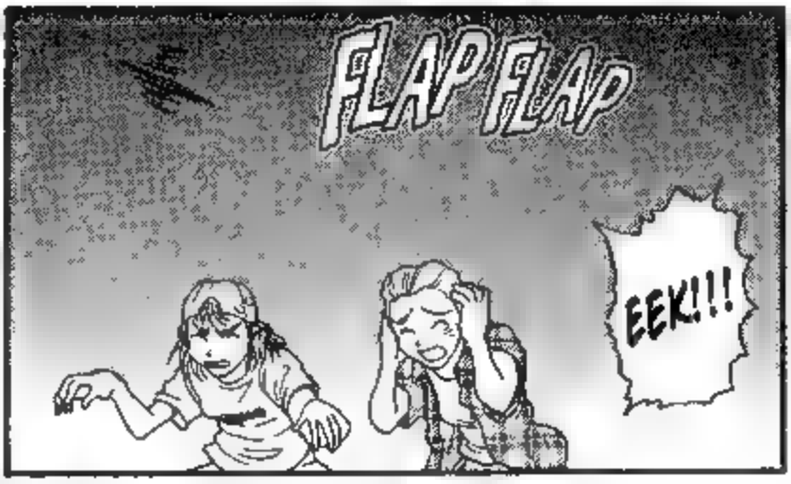
Greentown, Illinois, USA
HEY, WAIT FOR ME, TOM!
HURRY UP, JACK!
FWH
FWH

ON THE FLYER I SAW, IT SAID THE SHOW WOULD START TOMORROW, BUT THIS AFTERNOON, THE HILL WAS STILL EMPTY!
YEAH, I'M SURE! AND THEY'RE PUTTING UP THEIR TENT TONIGHT!
SO... IS IT TRUE WHAT YOU SAID, TOM?! THERE'S REALLY A CIRCUS THAT'S GONNA COME BY HERE?!
IT WASN'T EASY SNEAKING OUT OF THE HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
VVHHH-
DAWN
YEAH, ME TOO.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE HOW THEY PUT UP CIRCUS TENTS!
DOOHH
...
I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING ...
SO?
VVHHH
YES! OVER THERE!
...!

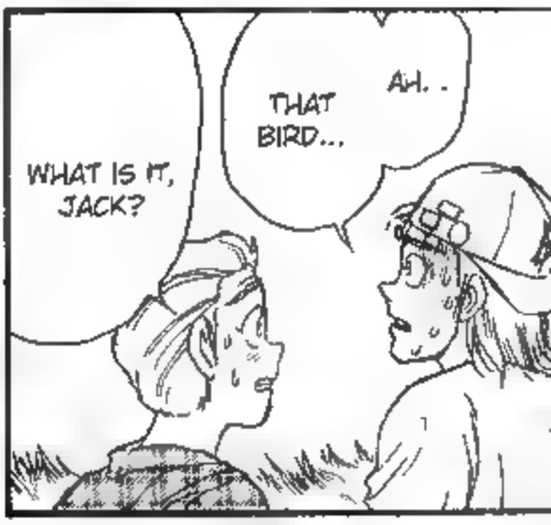
VLANG
VLOMF
SCHLAG
ZO
OHH
BLNG
SCHRA
CLANG
SCHLNG
ZZAANVV

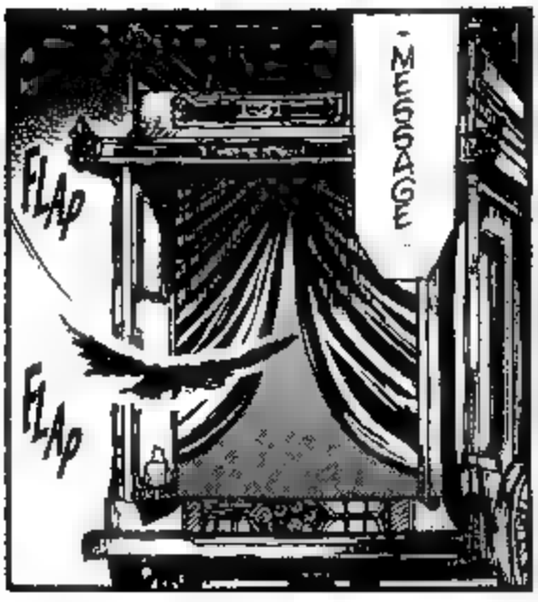

THE TENT... IT OPENED... BY ITSELF!
...
LIKE THE WINGS OF A HUGE BIRD!
Y... YEAH...
D-DID YOU SEE THAT... TOM?
GOH

A RAVEN?


FLAP FLAP
EEK!!!

...THERE WERE ALL THESE GEARS TURNING!
IT WAS SPLIT OPEN DOWN THE MIDDLE... AND INSIDE...


WHAT IS IT, JACK?
THAT BIRD...
AH. .

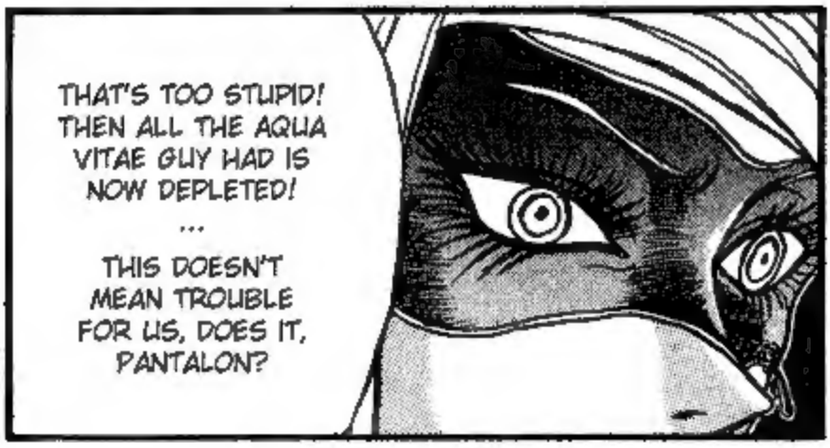

-MESSAGE-
FLAP
FLAP

-MESSAGE-
FLAP

FLAP
LEFT-
PARIS-
FLAP
FLAP
HAVE-
LEFT-
PARIS-
GUY-
AND-
OTHER-
MAN-
COLOM-
BINE.
THAT MEANS HELEN AND CYBELE FAILED, DOESN'T IT?
...THEY LEFT PARIS?

IF THAT'S THE CASE, HE MUST HAVE USED THE AQUA VITAE TO SAVE HIM... DON'T YOU THINK?
COLOM-BINE.

IT MUST BE SO, PANTALON.
THE OTHER MAN IS THE ONE GUY BROUGHT BACK HALF-DEAD FROM JAPAN, RIGHT?

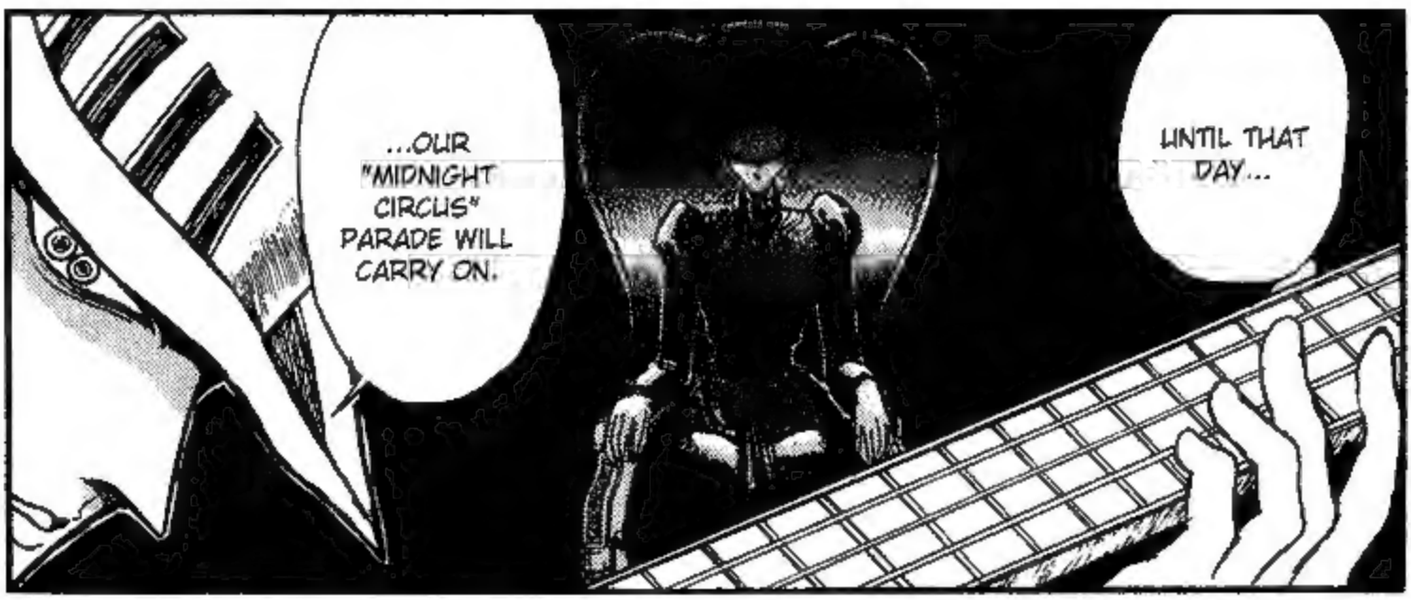

THAT'S TOO STUPID! THEN ALL THE AQUA VITAE GUY HAD IS NOW DEPLETED!
...
THIS DOESN'T MEAN TROUBLE FOR US, DOES IT, PANTALON?

SAH
...
CALM DOWN, MY FRIENDS!
...
IN ANY CASE, WE NEVER REALLY COUNTED ON GUY'S AQUA VITAE FOR OUR PLAN TO SUCCEED!
SOON, WHEN THE HUMANS HAVE COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED FROM THIS PLANET...
...WE WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN AQUA VITAE IN ABUNDANCE!

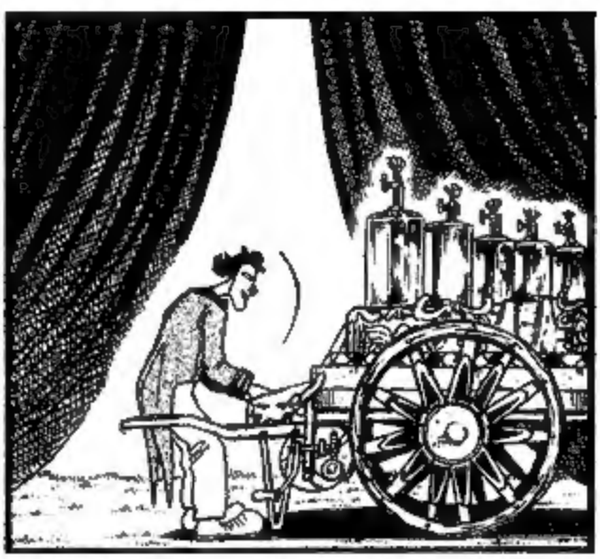
YOU ARE INDEED RIGHT, DOTTORE.
BLONG

HM ...
YES, THAT'S TRUE, DOTTORE.

AT THAT TIME, WE AUTOMA-TONS...
...INCLUDING MYSELF, ARLEQUINO...
...WILL BE ABLE TO BECOME HUMAN! THANKS TO THE AQUA VITAE!


UNTIL THAT DAY...
...OUR "MIDNIGHT CIRCUS" PARADE WILL CARRY ON.

COME ON, LET'S GO, JACK!
YEAH ...



TUUT

WHAT IS IT, JACK?!
HAAAH!
HUUUH!!!

GUH

HAAA
HAAAA
HUUUH
AAAH... I... I...
HAAA

NARUMI...
...THIS IS WHERE ALL THE SHIROGANES WERE BORN!
THIS WATER WAS ABLE TO CURE EVERY DISEASE AND GIVE LIFE TO INANIMATE PUPPETS.

WHAT WERE YOU SAYING, GUY?
A LONG TIME AGO, THIS WELL WAS FILLED WITH A MIRACULOUS WATER.